

NEWS RELEASE

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MAYOR BALLARD RECOGNIZES LOCAL BUSINESSES AND ORGANIZATIONS WITH THE 11TH ANNUAL MAYOR'S CELEBRATION OF DIVERSITY AWARDS

INDIANAPOLIS – Mayor Greg Ballard today hosted the 11th Annual Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards honoring businesses and organizations for their contributions to diversity. The Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards recognizes local businesses that encourage, embrace, and celebrate differences that foster a culture of diversity and inclusiveness.

"Over the past four years, the City of Indianapolis has made unprecedented strides at building a culture of inclusiveness and opportunity for women and minorities, as well as for veterans and individuals with disabilities," said Mayor Ballard. "Every day, our city celebrates diversity – diversity of race, gender, ability, heritage and culture. More than that, we celebrate the opportunity that comes from diversity, and that from our differences come strength, creativity and growth."

Recognition for the Mayor's Celebration of Diversity Awards is based on stellar performance in one or all of the following areas: Workforce Diversity, Development, Community Relations, and Leadership. Below is a list of the award recipients and a brief description of their accomplishments.

Development in Diversity Award

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in providing opportunities for diversity education and communication within the organization.

- **Award Recipient: JPMorgan Chase**

JPMorgan Chase recognizes that in a global market, its business always is changing, and its need for specific knowledge and skills in its workforce is likewise changing. At JPMorgan Chase, career discussions are held with every team member at least annually to determine if there are better opportunities for the team member elsewhere in the company. Diversity communications are embedded in daily communications for all lines of business. JPMorgan Chase recognizes and supports Employee Networking Groups, which create forums that build a network of relationships across the company through the sharing of common interests.

Community Relations Award

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in promoting activities that encourage and support diversity in the community.

- **Award Recipient: KeyBank**

Since its earliest days, KeyBank's purpose has been to promote the development and success of its clients and communities. KeyBank has provided financial and hands-on volunteer support to a number of organizations, programs and initiatives in our community. One such program – Super Refund Sunday – is a partnership with the John H. Boner Community Center on the Near-Eastside to prepare income tax returns for low-income individuals. In 2011, KeyBank volunteers processed more than 132 returns, resulting in refunds in excess of \$350,000.

Leadership in Diversity Award

This award is presented to a company or organization that excels in implementing a vision that supports diversity strategies throughout the organization.

- **Award Recipient: Enginuity Engineering and Management**

Enginuity Engineering and Management is a Woman Business Enterprise and Minority Business Enterprise engineering and consulting firm founded by Sahara Williams. Enginuity's vision is "to be a dynamic company offering diverse solutions in a client-focused climate, providing opportunities for professional growth to innovative employees and serving as a community partner to enhance the world in which we all live." Enginuity has embraced the City's diversity goals as part of its long-term diversity initiatives. Williams' personal commitment to working with other small and diverse vendors has gone beyond just utilizing their services. She has, on many occasions, taken time out to counsel others interested in starting their own small business. She always has been willing to share her experience letting those in the early stages know what to expect and how they can better prepare for the day when they take that leap.

Workforce Diversity Award

This award is presented to a company or organization that has made great strides in the diversity representation in the workplace.

- **Award Recipient: Thompson Distribution Company, Inc.**

Thompson Distribution Company began operations in November 2001 under the leadership of its president and owner, John Thompson. Thompson Distribution embraces diversity in its workforce by hiring some of the best and brightest candidates from local universities as well as hard-working ex-offenders. Thompson Distribution's goal is to continue to celebrate diversity in its workforce from top management to the front counter and warehouse workers by hiring quality employees regardless of race, gender or background.

Sam H. Jones Award

This special award, which represents the "Best of the Best," is named in honor of the first president of the Indianapolis Urban League, a tireless advocate for peace, justice, and understanding in Indianapolis. This award recognizes a business or organization with the strongest performance in all four categories.

- **Award Recipient: YMCA of Greater Indianapolis**

The YMCA of Greater Indianapolis is committed to reflecting the community at large and doing everything it can – from its hiring practices to its membership policies – to remain a positive, welcoming place for all. Its centers are as thriving and diverse as Indianapolis itself. Through its leadership focused on inclusiveness, diversity is a part of the YMCA's culture through and through, as promoted in its mission: to provide programs

and opportunities to make our community healthier – in spirit, mind and body for all. Its purpose is to practice inclusion by valuing the diversity of all people within its association and the communities it serves. It does so by helping the YMCA increase and support the cultural competence of staff, members, volunteers, and the various publics served. Diversity is the mosaic of people who bring a variety of backgrounds, styles, perspectives, beliefs and competencies as assets to the YMCA.

Special Humanitarian Award

This special award honors and celebrates an individual who has been actively engaged in promoting human welfare and social reform, and who continually has held the interest of mankind at heart.

- **Award Recipient: Dr. Tom Garrett Benjamin Jr.**

Bishop Tom Garrett Benjamin officially will retire at the end of 2012 as Senior Pastor of the Light of the World Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), a position he has held since 1969, which will make him the longest-tenured pastor in the 145-year history of Light of the World, the second-oldest African-American church in Indianapolis. He serves as Resident Bishop at “The Light” and as the Presiding Prelate of the Christian Ecumenical Covenant Fellowship, providing covering and leadership for numerous pastors and ministers serving congregations across the country. A celebrated author of four inspirational and motivational books, Bishop Benjamin founded “The Respect Academy” to address the need for passing on time-honored, cultural values to generations of youth. He co-founded the Celebration of Hope, a citywide ecumenical and interracial movement designed to reconcile races and religions among the residents of Indianapolis. He is a past recipient of the Whistler Award and the Robert W. Briggs Humanitarian Award, and in 2010 he was inducted into the Fatherhood Hall of Fame. He also is a four-time recipient of the Sagamore of the Wabash Award.

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